

STATEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19 (1)

Claim 1 as amended states that the hydrogen is supplied to the user device via the buffer storage, so that the hydrogen is received by the user device at the lower pressure at which it is released by the buffer and not the higher pressure at which it is produced by the reaction. The references US 5,702,491 (*Long et al*) and US 6,811,764 (*Jorgensen et al*) both show devices in which the buffer merely provides an initial flow to meet demand during reaction start-up, and then takes up excess hydrogen during reaction shut-down; during the main phase of operation, the hydrogen flows essentially straight to the user device, not via the buffer so as to be supplied to the user device at a lower pressure. The prior art therefore does not teach or suggest the apparatus of amended claim 1.

The Written Opinion stated that the invention of original claim 10 was not taught or suggested by the prior art. New claim 21 consequently corresponds to original claim 10, rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base and intervening claims. Original dependent claim 10 has consequently been cancelled.

Claim 17 has been amended to change "apparatus" to "method", in order to correct a typographical error.